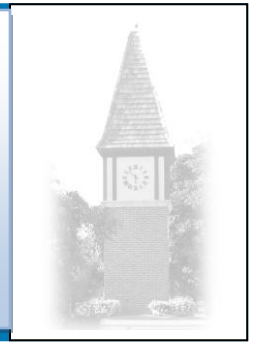


# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 16 Issue 2

March – April 2008

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### **Westminster Police Department**

8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683  
**Emergencies Call 911**

Business Line: 714-898-3315  
Dispatch Ext: 326  
Traffic Division Ext. 339  
Records Bureau Ext. 371  
Business Hours:  
Sunday- Saturday  
7:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.

Website:

[www.westminster-  
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

## Reporting Crime



Law enforcement agencies function with the assistance of responsible citizens. We are depending on YOU to call whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions. Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and be hesitant to call for fear of seeming a “nosy neighbor” or a “crank.” Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called.

By reporting crimes, perpetrators can be punished, others will be deterred and values will be protected. If crimes and incidents are not reported, perpetrators of these crimes and incidents will continue to pose threats to our society. Reporting criminal acts will increase community awareness. And in reporting crime, incidents are documented accurately a means by which the public is educated.

Call the police immediately about all suspicious activity...and do it yourself. Do not worry about being a bother; this is the purpose of the Police Department. Do not worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what COULD have happened if you had not called. 📞

## IRS Warning of New E-Mail & Telephone Scams

The Internal Revenue Service warns taxpayers to be cautious of several current e-mail and telephone scams that use the IRS name as a lure. The IRS expects such scams to continue through the end of tax return filing season and beyond.

The IRS cautioned taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams involving proposed advance payment checks. Although the government has not yet enacted an economic stimulus package in which the IRS would provide advance payments, known informally as rebates to many Americans, a scam which uses the proposed rebates as bait has already cropped up.

The goal of the scams is to trick people into revealing personal and financial information, such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, which the scammers can use to commit identity theft.

Typically, identity thieves use a victim’s personal and financial data to empty the victim’s financial accounts, run up charges on the victim’s existing credit cards,

Please see *IRS Warning* on page 2

## Reminder

Cellular telephones can be a lifesaver in an emergency. In non-emergency situations, they can be a great tool **if** used properly. Please use your cellular telephone safely and responsibly.

**Beginning July 1, 2008, all drivers must use hands free device**, except for emergencies, and drivers of emergency response vehicles (commercial vehicle drivers exempted from requirement until 2011). 🚓

## IRS Warning from page 1

apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name, file fraudulent tax returns or even commit crimes. Most of these fraudulent activities can be committed electronically from a remote location, including overseas. Committing these activities in cyberspace allows scamsters to act rapidly and cover their tracks before the victim becomes aware of the theft.

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the disarray thieves have made of their reputations and credit records. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, may be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

## What to Do

Anyone wishing to access the IRS Web site should initiate contact by typing the IRS.gov address into their Internet address window, rather than clicking on a link in an e-mail or opening an attachment.

Those who have received a questionable e-mail claiming to come from the IRS may forward it to a mailbox the IRS has established to receive such e-mails, [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). 🚓



## CERT Wants You!

Experts agree that it is inevitable a major disaster, such as an earthquake, will affect the Orange County area in the near future. Recent disasters have shown that emergency services resources will be depleted to the extent that some individuals or neighborhoods will need to rely on themselves during the first few days following a disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, citizens trained to respond to emergencies can make a difference by saving lives and protecting property.

The Cities of Buena Park, Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Westminster and the Orange County Fire Authority would like to invite you to attend a training program to learn and practice disaster preparedness. The program is called CERT - Community Emergency Response Teams.

The CERT program is designed to prepare citizens to help themselves, their family, their neighbors and community in case of an emergency or catastrophic disaster. CERT training is available to everyone; residents, businesses, churches, and civic groups, regardless of where you reside.

The West County CERT training program will begin on April 3, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. To receive an application or ask any questions contact Rebecca Barlow by email [Rbarlow@ci.westminster.ca.us](mailto:Rbarlow@ci.westminster.ca.us) or by calling 714-898-3315 ext. 330. 🚓

## City of Westminster Department Directory

City Hall: 714-898-3311	Chamber of Commerce: 714-898-9648	West Justice Center: 714-896-7111
Family Resource Center: 714-903-1331	Consumer Affairs: 714-952-5210	Fair Housing Department: 714-569-0823
Code Enforcement: 714-893-3311	Health Department: 714-677-3600	Senior Center: 714-895-2878
Graffiti Hotline: 714-895-2876	Animal Control: 714-898-3315 Ext. 365	Vector Control: 714-971-2421

## NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

MARCH 16 – 22, 2008

According to the Poison Prevention Week Council, one million phone calls are placed to Poison Control Centers annually by adults seeking help when children have swallowed something harmful. Statistics from the same organization show that approximately 30 children die each year from accidental poisoning. With this in mind, approach your area Poison Control Center about partnering to raise awareness of the steps parents and caregivers in your community can take to keep harmful products out of children's reach.

If a poisoning is suspected, citizens can reach their nearest Poison Control Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 1-800-222-1222. This number should be called immediately at the first sign of a suspected poison emergency. The Poison Prevention Week Council website, [poisonprevention.org](http://poisonprevention.org), can provide additional information about poison prevention. By staying informed, being proactive, and remaining vigilant, we can avoid poison exposure and save more lives. 🐸



8102 Westminster Blvd. Suite #E, Westminster, CA 92683  
Phone: 714-903-1331

Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM

The Westminster Family Resource Center, formed in 2000, serves all families residing in the City of Westminster and surrounding communities. This includes intact families with children birth through 18, single parents, blended families, foster and adoptive families, relative caregivers and anyone who is in need. The Westminster Family Resource Center has become the centralized information and referral point for the community. Families can easily access services outside those offered by our Partners and with the assistance of the staff make necessary linkages with other community based agencies.

All services provided are offered in three languages (English, Spanish and Vietnamese), are at no cost and have no eligibility requirements. 🐸

## KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL & WESTMINSTER TOO!

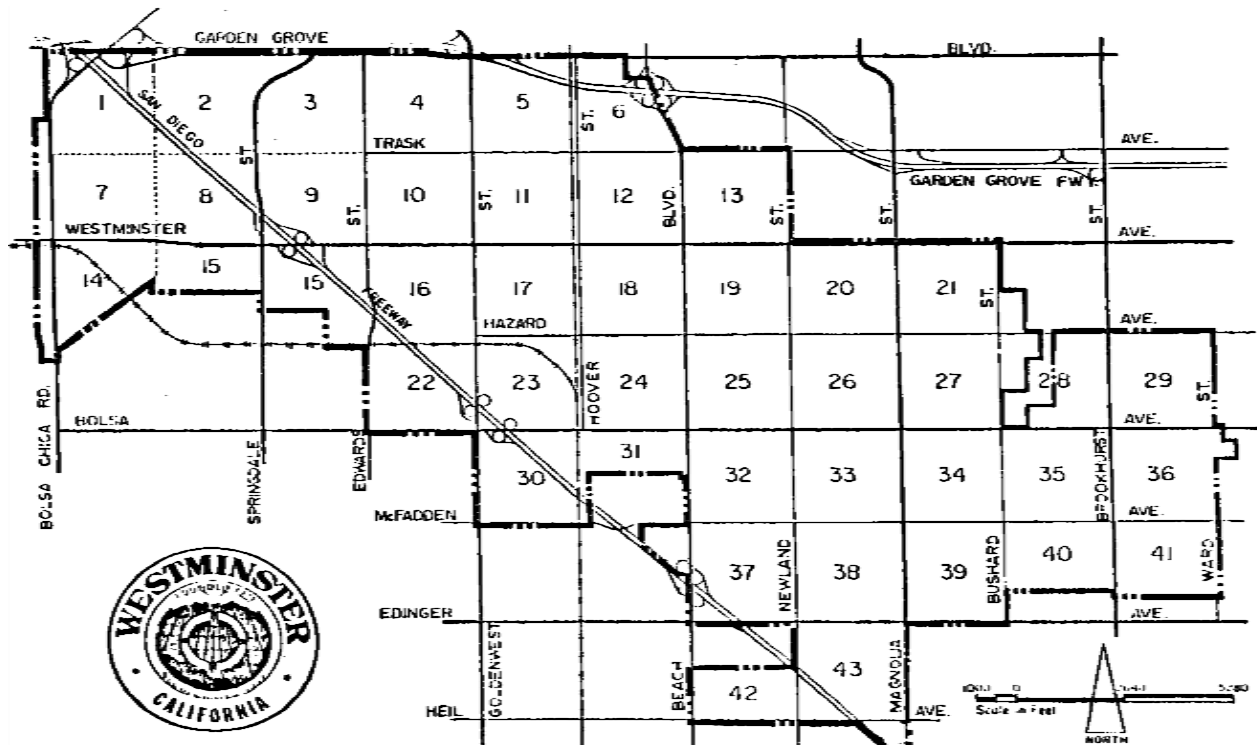
The City of Westminster's Keep America Beautiful – and Westminster, Too! program has been scheduled for the week of April 20 – 27, 2008. Residents are invited to improve the looks, vitality, and economic integrity of their community by beautifying their surroundings in ways that make a major difference. Neighborhoods that are beautiful to look at are beautiful to live in, work in, and visit.

The annual "Adopt-a-Park" program offers an opportunity for citizens, scout groups, youth organizations, churches, and services clubs to adopt a park of their choice and give it a sprucing up on Saturday, April 26. Everyone is invited to Keep Westminster Beautiful by personally getting involved. For more details, call the Community Services & Recreation Department at 895-2860. 🐸

### Westminster Family Resource Center offers the following *Services free of charge!*

- Family Advocacy
- Personal Empowerment Program
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Information & Referral
- Parent Education Workshops
- Adoption Promotion & Support
- Family Reunification Services
- Dental Services
- Emergency Food Program
- Emergency Assistance Program
- After School Enrichment Programs
- Case Management Services
- Individual and Family Counseling

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



## RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	JAN	FEB	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	0	0	1	16	0	1	1	0	31	0	1	1	0
2	1	0	1	2	17	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0
3	3	0	3	0	18	0	0	0	0	33	0	2	2	3
4	0	0	0	2	19	2	1	3	0	34	2	1	3	1
5	0	0	0	0	20	2	3	5	2	35	2	1	3	0
6	0	0	0	0	21	3	4	7	0	36	4	2	6	2
7	0	1	1	1	22	0	0	0	0	37	1	0	1	0
8	0	0	0	1	23	0	0	0	0	38	0	1	1	1
9	1	1	2	0	24	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	1
10	0	0	0	2	25	0	0	0	0	40	0	1	1	1
11	1	2	3	0	26	0	0	0	2	41	0	0	0	0
12	1	0	1	3	27	0	0	0	1	42	0	0	0	1
13	0	1	1	1	28	0	1	1	1	43	2	0	2	0
14	2	1	3	0	29	0	0	0	2					
15	0	2	2	1	30	1	0	1	1					

	JAN	FEB	YTD
<b>TOTAL BURGLARIES</b>	28	27	55

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Administrative Services Bureau

